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the minimum wage was and it was \$2.65 an hour in 1978. And you can see that at the bottom of the chart called, "The Minimum Wage and Inflation." And then as you go up the chart you come to current years, and if you follow the arrows up...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...to get the same purchasing power that is represented by \$2.65 in 1978, the minimum wage today would have to be \$7.70. So over time... and the minimum wage today is, in fact, \$5.15. In other words, Senator Landis was right. It hasn't changed since 1997, although obviously there has been inflation eating away at the purchasing power of that minimum wage for six years now. But that six-year period is kind of typical the way it has gone with the minimum wage because it doesn't relate in any way to what a person or a family needs to get off welfare, to get off childcare, to get off food stamps, to get off these programs. It doesn't relate and nobody even...

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...claims anymore that it has any relationship to needs.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Speaker, members, I guess this is good timing. All I was going to say is we need some time to think about this and sleep on this. I guess we have four days coming up here, so what else can we do? Go home and find out, sleep on it and see what's going to happen, come back I guess Tuesday and do the right thing. So with that, I know they don't want to hear me talk for...of course, maybe they do. But, no, on second...no. So with that, I'll give you back my time. Sleep on it.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Mr. Clerk, do you have items for the record?

CLERK: I do, Mr. President. Your Committee on Government, Military and Veterans Affairs reports LB 232 to General File;